3rd September 1928] [Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai]

feelings of sympathy which were expressed by the previous speakers on the sad demise of the late Raja of Ramnad. Though he was born in an aristocratic family, yet he had a deep feeling of sympathy towards the poorer classes, especially the depressed classes. I had opportunities of moving with the late Raja of Ramnad, and I always found him really sympathetic towards our people, and he gave me very good counsel at times when I had occasions of discussing with him certain matters. So, I support this resolution and trust the same will be accepted by this House unanimously."

* Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to associate myself with what has fallen from the mouths of the previous speakers regarding the late Raja of Ramnad. Representing as I do a large portion of the Muslims of the Tamil districts in this Presidency, I think I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say a few words regarding the feeling that obtains in my community regarding the deceased.

"One important matter about which he took a good deal of interest is the improvement of Tamil literature. On this, I may say, he was as a matter of fact the founder of the Tamil Sangam of Madura which is doing such a great deal of good for the improvement and progress of Tamil literature in this country. But for him, I am sure the Tamil Sangam would not have come into existence at all. If it is not for all his other qualities of head and heart to which my other friends have referred, if it is not for all his other activities, but at least for this matter the public of this Presidency and in fact all that are interested in Tamil literature owe the deceased a deep debt of gratitude for the great work that he had done. With this particular reference, I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers on this occasion."

Mr. C. R. T. Congreve:—"On behalf of the European community, I should like to associate myself with this resolution on the sad death of the Raja of Ramnad. He was a Member of this House with me for the last four or five years, and I regret the great loss sustained by this House by his death."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

III

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Court of Wards

Increase of forest rates in Pedda Kimedi zamindari in Ganjam district.

* 1 Q.—Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether forest rates have been increased by the Court of Wards for different kinds of wood removed from the jungles of the Pedda Kimedi (Bodo Kimedi) zamindari in Ganjam district;

(b) whether the Government made any preliminary investigation into the matter of existing rates before sanctioning the increased rates;

(c) the grounds on which the increase of rates, if any, is based;

(d) whether the increased rates apply to wood taken by ryots of the zamindari for agricultural implements and for their bona fide domestic use;

(*e*) whether fuel required by the ryot for his domestic use is subject to the increased rates;

(*f*) whether prior to the Court of Wards' management the zamindar levied a rate for the plough of the ryot, and left the ryot free to remove the wood required for his agricultural and domestic purposes;

(*g*) the reasons for altering the former procedure adopted in the muchilkas executed by the ryots;

(*h*) whether Government are aware that the Mustagari system prevailing in the Bodo Kimedi zamindari has resulted in great hardship to the ryot;

(*i*) whether the Government will be pleased to enquire into the grievances of the Pedda Kimedi ryots regarding increase in forest rates and the previous mamuls prevailing in the zamindari; and

(*j*) whether they would consider the desirability of not reserving forests and jungles adjoining the villages to a distance of one mile?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*j*) The Government have not the information. They have called for a report.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the reply when they get it?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The Government will consider that suggestion when the report is received."

Deputy Collectors

Proposed transfer of Mr. V. Ramanadham Pantulu, Revenue Divisional Officer, Nuzvid.

* 2 *Q.*—The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a proposal to transfer the Revenue Divisional Officer of Nuzvid division, M.R.Ry. V. Ramanadham Pantulu Garu; and

(*b*) if so, what are the causes that have actuated the Government to take such a step?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) As far as Government are aware, there is no such proposal.

Famine

Steps taken to meet the scarcity of fodder in some taluks.

* 3 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the taluks in the province where fodder was insufficient during the months of April to June this year and the measures taken by them to meet the scarcity of fodder in the said areas?

A.—As regards the first part of the question the hon. Member is referred to the abstract of the season reports published in the Supplement to Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette.* As regards the second part of the question, there being no apprehension of famine in these areas, no interference by Government with private trade was either contemplated or attempted.